



Community Development Department

Media Advisory – For Immediate Release

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City of Springfield is notified of Scam Related to Code Enforcement

The City of Springfield Community Development Department Code Enforcement Division has been made aware of a scam. Individuals have represented themselves as Code Enforcement Officers and have made personal door – to – door contact with homeowners advising them of Code Enforcement Orders related to shrubbery and pest infestations at their homes. Individuals have been told that immediate action is required, and that monies paid can be recovered through grants provided by the City.

The City of Springfield Code Enforcement Division has not authorized this communication or direct contact with homeowners or residents. Code Enforcement orders related to overgrown shrubbery and weeds are not delivered in person to an individual home. Orders are sent via US Postal Service. Code Enforcement Officials will never ask for money, or personally take money, from an individual to gain compliance on a Code Enforcement matter. Code Enforcement Officials do not require immediate code compliance by a contractor without giving the property owner a chance to correct the violation. Communications regarding code violations are made in writing and can be followed up in person and through phone conversation.

The City of Springfield Code Enforcement Division manages over 12,000 inspections annually. Inspections may result in orders to correct a violation being issued; however, a property owner is always given an appropriate amount of time to correct the violation. If a property owner fails to do so, Code Enforcement may initiate a correction of violation through a contractor, and the owner will be responsible for the cost. This is never done without formal written communication from the Division in a letter signed by the Division Administrator or the Department Director.

Anyone having questions about a notice to correct a violation may immediately contact the Code Enforcement Division at 937-324-7385. Communication among citizens and the Code Enforcement Division is key. Citizens are encouraged to contact Code Enforcement anytime they have a concern about a property, potential violations, or concerns about a neighborhood. After a complaint is received, one may see a Code Enforcement Officer in the neighborhood. These officers drive marked vehicles with Code Enforcement prominently displayed on their front doors and will always be able to produce identification issued by the City of Springfield.

If a citizen believes they or someone they know may have been contacted by a person inappropriately representing themselves as a Code Enforcement Officer, a contractor who is requiring immediate payment to correct a code violation, or has been told any funds the person spends today can be recovered through a grant from the city after the work is complete should immediately contact the Springfield Police Division at 937-324-7685. If there are questions about Code Enforcement actions or confirmation of a Code Enforcement Officer's presence in a neighborhood, contact the Code Enforcement Division. Code Enforcement operates Monday through Friday between the hours of 8AM and 5PM.

Before hiring or paying a contractor for any work, citizens should check and confirm the potential contractor is licensed and bonded. General Contractors authorized to do work in the City of Springfield are licensed through the Division of Building Regulations and Inspection Services. One may confirm a licensed general contractor by calling 937-324-7388. Tree Companies authorized to do work in the City of Springfield are licensed through the City Service Center. Do not hire or pay a tree service company before confirming their licensing status by calling 937-525-5800.

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